



SATURDAY APRIL 30 1904

ANCIENT BACHELOR KICKS.

Lives Just Cause Why Woman He Had Loved for Many Years Shouldn't Be Married.

It was in a little New England village, which the tide of progress and modernity had left high and dry among the hills, with all its customs and quaintnesses, still woefully about its ears. Weddings there are things of rarity and great solemnity, and the clause in the time-honored ceremony which challenges those present to show cause, if any exist, why the couple in question should not then and there be made one, is still followed by a grave and ominous pause, as in the days of the people of



SIGNIFIED HIS DISAPPROVAL.

Plymouth Rock, the "beams" of whose time have become the scarcely discernible "motes" of the moment.

The New York Times reports that not long since a buxom Rachel of middle age, and a Reuben some years her junior, submitted themselves as candidates for this ordeal. The usual opportunity for dissent was given, and to the consternation of the assembled countryside, the confirmed old bachelor of the community raised his hand, and shaming to his feet, signified his disapproval of the impending nuptials. The fact that he had long been known to cherish a secret affection for the bride, but had chronically lacked the courage to put his fate to the test, only increased the general amazement.

The clergyman, visibly perturbed, inquired if his objection were grave. "And it is that, sir," quavered the octogenarian. "Then perhaps it would better be stated in private," the former suggested. "No, sir," returned the other with sudden vehemence, "I'm a man, and I don't care who knows it. I had intended, sir, I had intended—Rachel for myself!"

TOO POOR FOR BANKRUPTCY

Distressing Plight of a Man Who Sought Relief from Debts by Legal Procedure.

Bankruptcy is a word that means the limit of financial misfortune to most business men, but it isn't the limit by any means. This truth was brought out most forcibly the other day in the office of Henry F. Cassin, United States commissioner at Louisville, Ky.

Mr. Cassin was approached by a man whose tailor-made garments had



TOO POOR TO BE A BANKRUPT.

grown slippery in some spots and frazzled in others. He wore a careworn expression and the need of a haircut on his face.

"Is this the place to institute bankruptcy proceedings?" asked the man.

"It is," said Mr. Cassin.

"Well, I want to file a petition. I have been in business for several years and have made an awful mess of it."

"The proceedings will cost you about \$35," said Mr. Cassin.

"I haven't got any \$35 and can't get it," was the response.

"Sorry then, but we can't do anything for you," said the commissioner.

"I knew I was hard up, but blamed if I thought it was possible to be too blamed poor to become a bankrupt," said the applicant as he turned up his coat collar and made for the door.

His Opinion Changed?

"You say you think Shakespeare is a foolish and trivial writer?"

"I do," answered Mr. Meekton rather tremulously.

"But you used to be almost an idolatrous admirer of his works?"

"Yes. But that was before Henrietta and I went to see 'The Taming of the Shrew.'"—Washington Star.

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FROM WASHINGTON.

Rev. R. R. Jones Speaks.

Washington, D. C., April 18th, 1904.

Mr. John Mitchell, Jr.,

Dear Sir:

I have intended to write my friends through your paper but have not been able to do so until now. Please say to them I am in the city of Washington, among my brethren who are just as kind to me as they can be. I feel at home among them. I want to answer every reference made about me later. I have clipped them out and the Doctor will not refuse to take the medicine he gives. It will take six months to answer them, but by the God that lives I will answer them.

I noticed a clipping from your paper on the subject of "Mob violence in Roanoke" and then I saw these words in reply "the article in question relates to the case of the notorious R. R. Jones." Who wrote these words? From whence did he come? What has he done to build up and beautify the city? R. R. Jones has spent thousands and thousands of dollars in the city. R. R. Jones has had dealings with the best white citizens of Roanoke for 22 years. Where is the business man of Roanoke who will put himself on record and say that in these 22 years I have been anything but an honest truthful man?

Let the writer of that article pull off his hat at the door and go into the office of such gentle men as the Farmers' Supply company, the First National and the National Exchange Banks, the Hobbie Music Co., W. K. Andrews Coal Company, Lynchburg Trust and Savings Bank, Engleby Bros. Lowe and Boon, H. O. Barnes, Judge King, Judge Robertson, Mercantile Clothing Co., People's Bank, I. R. Tillett, Davis and Lunford, Insurance Companies, J. W. Baswell, Okey Undertaker, Jennings Music Co., Central Manufacturing Co., and Messrs. Angel and Motley. When you get their testimony go to Salem, Va., and call on the Messrs. Boon Brothers and Thomas J. Preston, to whose uncle I belonged in the days of slavery.

Then go to Lynchburg and call up Adams Bros. and Payne, then stop in Bedford City, my adopted home. Call up the city and ask them whether I was a man of truth and honesty, then call on the white ladies who lived in my part of the city for 22 years, some of them aim at alone and get their verdict, then call up the officers of my church and any one of those with whom I have had dealings, some for 22 years lacking 3 months and if any one of all I have mentioned will go against me let me know who it is and I will beg his pardon.

Let me say to the writer that I have never organized nor given my voice to a mob. I have never advised my people to mistreat the humblest white man or woman. I have never advised them to take up arms even in their own defense. I taught them to serve God and he would fight their battles as he did in '61 and '65.

The writer seems to know how often the mob went to my house. I wonder why the Police and Mayor could not find it out. Did the mob come back and report to the writer? Why didn't he tell the officers? I have the clippings here to be used later on, of a mob of Roanoke church members going to prayer meeting a thousand strong to take one poor Negro, a thousand to take one preacher. It teaches us our strength.

My wife said that the man who made her hold up her hands gave her the sign of the cross in the breast. To what tribe did he belong? Who will answer, he thought he was bowing to Saint Mary, but it was my wife, my friend.

Let me close by asking the writer of the article what would you do if the Negroes of Roanoke would visit a white preacher's family and treat them as my wife was treated? Do you think you could catch them? Let them try it.

Remember what you do to others will be done to you sooner or later. I have not been out of Washington city one minute since February 5th about 8 p.m.

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The writer had me in Thaxtons and he says, "Hollens, Va. Poor fellow, I will tell him that the war is over. Later I shall visit every white ministers' conference in the North and lay our claims before them which are many. A great duty is before me, but I shall undertake it."

Roanoke has some of the best white men as ever walked the streets of any city North or South, but that mob class of gentlemen going to prayer meeting with guns and pistols—my! my! R. R. JONES.

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THE PLANET FOR 1904.



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